

POPULATION TODAY

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Andy Lim



Children from diverse Asian backgrounds paint a shared mural at the 1989 Asian Pacific American Heritage Council celebration in Washington, D.C. (see page 6).

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Every profession is subject to its own blind spots—things we should not lose sight of, but somehow tend to overlook, discount, or simply let slip while juggling a host of other considerations.

The very precision with which demographers deal with data may get in the way when it comes to communicating their findings to the general public or to policy-makers, says Carol De Vita of PRB. "We are trained to calculate to the third or fourth decimal, but most policymakers generally need their information rounded to the whole number." PRB's Carl Haub agrees. "All our numbers are based on imperfect data, yet we often indulge ourselves in a sort of false precision and fondness for ever-more-rarified methodology."

Yet, demographers may err also on the other side of the question. Instead of making too much of small differences, they pay too little attention to them. For example, an increase of 150,000 births one year might seem

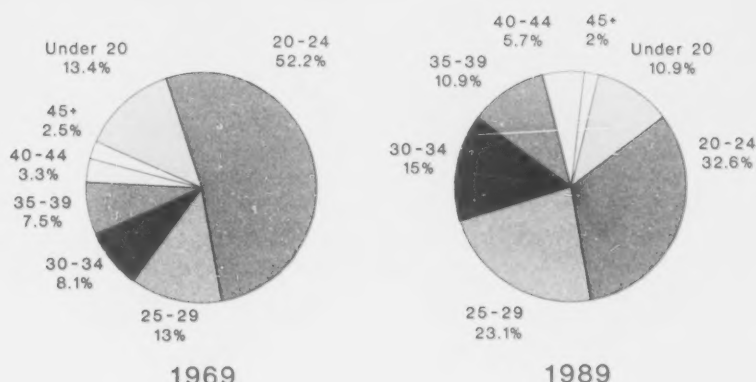
insignificant to the big picture, but a baby food manufacturer might get quite excited about it. The academic camp often holds applied demography at arm's length. Yet, De Vita points out, "the skills and techniques that go into business demography and other practical applications are very similar to academic demography. There really should be no distinction, and certainly no hierarchy."

As in other academic disciplines, demographers learn a specialized language, and then may lose sensitivity to how jargon and the common language diverge. For example, my sister was shocked to read that "fertility" was declining in several African countries; she interpreted this statement as meaning that women had become too ill to conceive. While demographers tend to sneer at the 30-second news quip, we all need to strike a balance between technical overload and newsspeak.

—Susan Kalish

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

U.S. Military Shifts to Older Age Mix



Note. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
Sources. U.S. Army Center of Military History; Department of Defense.

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Census Adjustment: Down to the Wire

To adjust, or not to adjust.... That is the question facing Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher as the Census Bureau readies its final 1990 counts.

The quandary raised its head in the earliest stages of planning for the 1990 Census, due to court challenges concerning alleged undercounts in the 1980 Census. No one expects a census to be perfect and count everyone, but serious problems arise when certain groups—such as city dwellers, poor people, or minorities—tend to be disproportionately undercounted. When this happens, undercounts may impair the one-person, one-vote rule for political representation and inject bias into government funding formulas (which follow census counts).

The issue is very political and highly sensitive. As Jeffrey Passel of the Urban Institute points out, "adjustment is a zero-sum game: there are winners and losers."

For example, Bill O'Hare, PRB's former director of policy, estimates that if the minority population of each state were adjusted upward by 5 percent, congressional seats would shift from Washington and Oklahoma to New York and New Jersey.

Anticipating an undercount in 1990, the city and state of New York went to court in 1988. A pre-trial settlement called for publication of guidelines on how an adjustment decision—if any—would be made. The guidelines were published in March 1990. The settlement also required the secretary to appoint an advisory committee. Four of the eight members would be recommended by the plaintiffs. Reflecting these litigious origins, the group was not charged with forming a consensus; each will send a separate recommendation. The secretary must make his decision by July 15, 1991.

On what evidence would the decision be based? There are two sources: the post-enumeration survey (PES) and demographic analysis of data from birth, death, and other independent records. Evaluations of the accuracy of these two independent sources will also be taken into account.

The PES is based on a "capture-recapture" model. For example, to count the number of fish in a lake, set out your net, tag all the fish you catch, and let them go. Then, set out your net a second time, and see how many tagged versus untagged fish you capture. Theoretically, these two "captures" may then be used to estimate the total number. (However, the two captures must be independent of each other and extraordinarily "wily trout" will complicate the process.) The Census Bureau undertook the PES in the months following the census last year, visiting a stratified sample of about 5,000 "block clusters," which averaged 30 housing units each. Individuals in the PES sample were then "matched" to persons in the census. The results of the census and PES are then used to estimate any "coverage errors" (undercounts or overcounts).

Adjustment—if carried out—would entail multiplying each census block by a complicated set of factors that account for 1,392 population groups.

Nifty Tool or Political Pitfall?

Kirk Wolter, an A.C. Nielsen statistician who serves on the Adjustment Advisory Committee, told *PT*: "Adjustment would be a major innovation in census-taking for our country. Other countries have improved their cen-

suses this way, including the Austrians, Canadians, and the English."

But, few countries take the trouble to estimate their undercount, let alone debate whether to correct for it.

On February 21, Rep. Tom Sawyer (D-OH), chair of the House Subcommittee on Census and Population, asked several statistical experts to testify on the potential for error in all the census components. In the sunlit, carpeted House chamber that morning, the mood of most participants seemed to favor viewing statistical adjustment as just one additional tool—one that would complement the primary data-gathering efforts of the census. These were experts, however, for whom, as Stephen Fienberg of the Carnegie Mellon University pointed out, such terms as *significant*, *power*, *random*, *unbiased*, and *error* have "precise technical meanings." In contrast, many fear that the public and the press might interpret adjustment as a sign that the census as a whole is flawed.

Most important, however, adjustment procedures are themselves subject to error or failure to satisfy critical assumptions. Therefore, adjusted counts may not meet Secretary of Commerce Mosbacher's predetermined criteria that adjusted counts be demonstrably more accurate than the raw counts.

—S.K.

1990 Census Products Ahead of Schedule

Ten years ago, analysts from the business world and academia alike eagerly awaited the release of specialized reports based on 1980 Census data. They waited...and waited...and waited. In fact, the biggest complaint from data users in the early 1980s was the unpredictable, frustrating, and ultimately expensive delays in getting census data products.

What a difference in the first few months of 1991! It looks as if the extensive automation carried out during the past decade has really paid

off. The bureau delivered population counts to all 39,189 local government units by mid-January. The 10 states with the earliest deadlines had all received their redistricting data and maps by February 5, a month earlier than for the 1980 Census, and the bureau was three weeks ahead of its April 1 deadline in reporting race and ethnic information to all states. All this bodes well for as-scheduled availability of the specialized analyses and data tapes that data users need.

—S.K.

The Mean Streets Get Meaner: City and Suburb

As stories on the nightly television news dramatize, violent crime is on the increase in U.S. cities. Crime is also rising in the outer cities (that area within the metropolitan statistical area that falls outside the historic city limits), but it is rising more slowly. Therefore, the gap between inner city and outer city rates of violent crime is widening.

In 1989, the median rate of violent crime in the central cities of the country's largest MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas of over 750,000 population) was 1,347 per 100,000 residents, an increase of 33 percent over the 1979 figure of 1,007 per 100,000 (see Table 1). The median crime rate for the outer cities of the same MSAs in 1989 was 386, up from 341 in 1979, an increase of just 14 percent.

As crime rates increase, more people are affected. In 1979, 25 percent of all central-city residents of MSAs lived within central cities with violent crime rates of more than 1,600. That proportion jumped to 43 percent by 1989. The percentage of urban Americans who lived in central cities with violent crime rates of 2,400 or more leaped from 1 percent in 1979 to 10 percent in 1989. During that time, the proportion of city-dwellers living in outer cities with violent crime rates of 1,200 or more stayed the same at 1.2 percent, but the proportion of those living in outer cities with violent crime rates of 400 or more rose from about one-third to almost one-half.

Why such a sharp increase in urban violent crime over the past decade? No one knows for sure. Some experts point to the increasingly youthful population of urban areas (with youthful populations typically more prone to violence), the widening gap between well-off and poor (with poorer urban communities typically more subject to violence), and to other factors, such as racial discrimination, drugs, lack of educational and job opportunities, or the use of more dangerous weapons to settle personal quarrels.

Another theory is that rapid population growth may be a contributing factor. Eight of the 10 worst outer cities

Continued on next page

Table 1. Rates of Violent Crime: Central Cities and Outer Cities, 1979-1989

	Central city			Outer city		
	1979	1989	Percentage change	1979	1989	Percentage change
Atlanta, GA	2,532	3,951	56	393	504	28
Newark, NJ	3,054	3,295	8	432	618	43
St. Louis, MO	2,131	3,121	46	342	386	13
Miami, FL	1,658	2,942	77	1,214	1,896	56
Chicago, IL	908	2,477	173	306	279	-9
Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL	1,222	2,452	101	523	647	24
Detroit, MI	1,670	2,401	44	421	420	0
New York, NY	1,863	2,300	23	241	333	38
Boston, MA	1,900	2,227	17	371	430	16
Los Angeles, CA	1,474	2,184	48	989	1,145	16
Washington, DC	1,608	2,142	33	437	451	3
Orlando, FL	1,420	2,087	47	786	789	0
Baltimore, MD	1,962	2,047	4	579	643	11
Charlotte, NC	857	1,961	129	423	431	2
New Orleans, LA	1,567	1,930	23	641	710	11
Portland, OR	1,121	1,891	69	459	234	-49
Kansas City, MO-KS	1,276	1,885	48	282	275	-2
Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX	1,239	1,746	41	264	370	40
Dayton, OH	1,612	1,613	0	340	363	7
Cleveland, OH	1,619	1,520	-6	267	193	-28
Riverside, CA	1,216	1,454	20	591	1,027	74
Birmingham, AL	1,154	1,446	25	250	508	103
Buffalo, NY	1,005	1,425	42	282	298	6
San Francisco-Oakland, CA	1,704	1,369	-20	484	593	23
West Palm Beach, FL	1,207	1,361	13	833	1,003	20
Richmond, VA	1,008	1,354	34	180	274	52
Fort Lauderdale, FL	752	1,340	78	723	879	22
Seattle, WA	931	1,337	44	306	260	-15
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	914	1,283	40	114	143	25
Memphis, TN	848	1,233	45	410	455	11
Pittsburg, PA	1,058	1,216	15	197	212	8
Indianapolis, IN	813	1,210	49	224	222	-1
Greensboro, NC	692	1,188	72	230	283	23
Houston, TX	878	1,140	30	358	430	20
Philadelphia, PA	822	1,093	33	354	365	3
Rochester, NY	1,128	1,077	-5	129	123	-5
Sacramento, CA	1,171	1,054	-10	548	518	-5
Columbus, OH	794	1,046	32	242	343	42
Nashville, TN	731	1,043	43	243	330	36
Oklahoma City, OK	1,000	997	-0	293	321	10
Cincinnati, OH	941	991	5	276	262	-5
San Diego, CA	655	921	41	507	620	22
Louisville, KY	784	907	16	219	277	26
Phoenix, AZ	808	900	11	521	385	-26
Anaheim, CA	615	798	30	379	397	5
Denver, CO	963	655	-32	290	489	69
Milwaukee, WI	471	710	51	118	134	14
Salt Lake City, UT	561	686	22	309	222	-28
San Jose, CA	535	598	12	305	356	17
Albany, NY	402	582	45	183	245	34
San Antonio, TX	493	553	12	283	417	47
Norfolk, VA	527	468	-11	413	463	12
Median	1,007	1,347	33	341	386	14

Notes. These figures cover incidents of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. A violent crime rate of 2,500 means that 2,500 crimes occurred in a given area per 100,000 residents of that area, in a given year. Outer city (suburban) rates were estimated by subtracting central city from total MSA figures. For Chicago, rape, was estimated for 1989; the 1979 figure is as reported. Source. Uniform Crime Statistics, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Crime

Continued from previous page

for violent crime are located in either Florida or California—two of the fastest-growing states during the 1980s. These MSAs may have incorporated low-income communities as they grew, or gentrification in the central city may have displaced low-income residents to suburban communities.

Inner City, Outer City

Even small numbers of violent crimes are undesirable, of course. However, we might characterize a violent crime rate of 1,500 or more as indicating a serious crime problem, and rates of higher than 2,000 as indicating a severe problem. In three central cities examined here, the 1989 crime rates were extremely severe, surpassing 3,000: Atlanta (a standout at 3,951 in 1989), Newark (3,295), and St. Louis (3,121). Ten central cities had rates between 2,000 and 3,000: Miami, Chicago, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Detroit, New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Orlando, and Baltimore. Seven central cities had rates between 1,500 and 2,000: Charlotte, New Orleans, Portland, Kansas City, Dallas-Fort Worth, Dayton, and Cleveland.

Only one outer-city area in 1989 ranked above the benchmark for a serious crime problem: the outer city of Miami, where the crime rate of 1,896 rivaled that of many central cities (see



The T.V. show "Cops" tells the story of urban crime by featuring real police officers, such as these members of the New Orleans force.

Table 2). Violent crime rates were high enough to be worrisome, however, in several other outer-city areas.

Life in the outer city of the typical MSA is still benign when compared with its central city. Nonetheless, four out of five of the MSAs listed here had seen increases in violent crime between 1979 and 1989. In 16 MSAs, violent crime rose faster in the outer city than in the central city. In San Francisco-Oakland, Denver, and Norfolk, central-city crime rates actually fell while outer-city rates increased.

—Morton Winsberg

*Institute of Science and Public Affairs,
Florida State University*

Table 2. Outer Cities with the Most Severe Rates of Violent Crime, 1979 and 1989

	1979	1989	Percentage change
Miami, FL	1,214	1,896	56
Los Angeles, CA	989	1,145	16
Riverside, CA	591	1,027	74
West Palm Beach, FL	833	1,003	20
Fort Lauderdale, FL	723	879	22
Orlando, FL	786	789	0
New Orleans, LA	641	710	11
Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL	523	647	24
Baltimore, MD	579	643	11
San Diego, CA	507	620	22

Source. Uniform Criminal Statistics, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Indonesian Growth Slowing

The 1990 Census of Indonesia, carried out in October, showed lower than expected rates of growth in this most populous country of Southeast Asia. The total 179,321,641, indicates the population grew 1.96 percent annually since 1980. Recent projections for 1990 had surpassed 180 million. The 1980 census, which found a growth rate of 2.3 percent a year, sparked controversies over the success of family planning and census methods.

The 1990 Census appears to vindicate intercensal and contraceptive prevalence surveys that showed declines in fertility and mortality, a picture that some demographers tended to discount during the 1980s. Controversy may yet emerge when fertility and mortality estimates are released this September. There is also some evidence of an urban undercount (see February 1991 *PT*).

The capital city of Jakarta, with just over 8 million, grew at 2.4 percent per year during the 1980s, down from 3.9 percent in the 1970s. Meanwhile, the surrounding regencies are exploding with the development of an international airport, light industry, universities, and housing complexes. Bekasi to the east and Tangerang to the west grew 6 percent per year. Even the upland southern regency of Bogor grew at over 4 percent per year.

By contrast, some areas of Java grew very slowly and some regencies in the Special Region of Yogyakarta experienced population declines, due to declining fertility and outmigration. Among provinces where family planning was thought successful—such as Bali, East Java, and Central Java—growth rates fell below 1 percent. Other provinces in Sumatra and Sulawesi seem similarly headed downward.

There is no doubt that growth rates are falling. Now the issues are how fast and how far that decline will go.

—Terence H. Hull

*Department of Political and Social
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University.*

DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

Studying the Pan Asian Community

by Juanita Tamayo Loft and
Judy C. Felt

Traditionally, the study of Asian and Pacific Islander populations in the United States was confined to service providers and a few Asian-American specialists. But today, demographers, policy analysts, and even market researchers are becoming interested in this population because it is the most rapidly growing and quickly changing minority group in the United States. Sources of data and research projects into the nature and evolution of this group are now beginning to develop.

This population is extremely diverse, giving rise to the term "Pan Asian," which encompasses immigrants from Asian and Pacific Island countries and native-born citizens descended from those ethnic groups. No one ethnicity dominates, and new nationalities are being added to the mix. In 1970, detailed characteristics were available for only four Asian American groups and one Pacific Islander group (see Figure 1). By 1980, detailed characteristics were available for 12 Asian-American groups and six Pacific Islander groups. The 1990 Census will report general population characteristics for 17 Asian American groups and eight Pacific Islander populations.

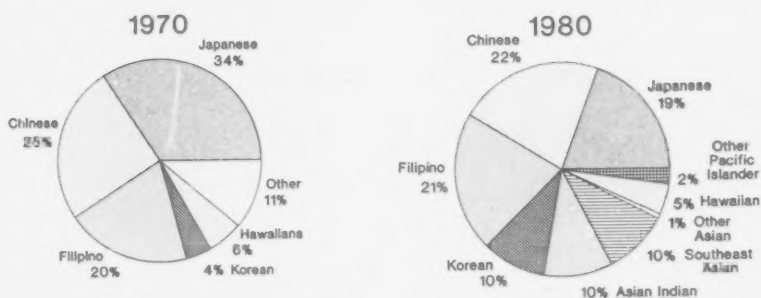
The majority of Pan Asians born in the United States are descendants of pioneer immigrants of the 19th and early 20th centuries. This foreign-born population includes immigrants from the first half of the 20th century, as well as immigrants since 1965; refugees from Southeast Asian countries since 1975; and Amerasian children born before 1975. In 1980, about 58 percent of the Pan Asian populations were foreign born. This high proportion reflects continued heavy immigration flows from Asian countries. Some eth-

nic groups—such as Japanese Americans—are primarily U.S. born. The majority of Pacific Islanders are born American with U.S. citizenships such as Hawaiians, Guamanians, and Samoans.

Early Data Collection

Before the 1960s, the history of U.S. Asians and Pacific Islanders was the history of individual groups and their

Figure 1. The Changing Makeup of the Pan Asian Population, 1970-1980



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *We, the Asian Americans* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1973) p. 2; and U.S. Bureau of the Census, *We, the Asian and Pacific Islander Americans* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1988) p. 2.

Sources of Data

Data Bases

- **Bureau of the Census.** *The Census of Population and Housing* for 1970, 1980, and 1990 provide data regarding the Asian and Pacific Island population, including data on subgroups. Public-use computer tapes are available, (301) 763-4100.
- **The Immigration and Naturalization Service.** Collects data on age, sex, marital status, type of entry visa, and country of origin (or of last residence) for immigrants and refugees. Some public-use computer tapes are available, (202) 376-3066.
- **National Center for Health Statistics.** Provides birth and death data by age, sex, and location. Began compiling data for some Asian and Pacific Island subgroups in 1968 with complete and comparable data by 1978. Data available from NCHS, (301) 436-8500.
- **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.** Data base includes legal cases involving Asian Americans. Data available from Surveys Office in a 1990 Census/EEO special file, (202) 663-4920.
- **Department of Education.** Post-Secondary Enrollment File data file, Earned Degree data file, and Elementary and Secondary Enrollment data files

contain information on enrollment, special needs, and other characteristics of students. Data by state are available from Education Information Branch, (202) 219-1651. Data by institution or by school are available from the Office of Civil Rights, (202) 732-1616.

Surveys

The **Bureau of the Census** conducts several surveys that contain data for U.S. Asian and Pacific Islanders and some are listed below. The time period between surveys varies and most provide no subgroup data. Not all survey sample sizes are large enough to support analysis. Call (301) 763-4100. Surveys of most interest include:

- **The Current Population Survey (CPS).** This monthly survey measures labor trends, but each month it asks a different set of supplemental questions. The March surveys of 1989 and 1990 permitted national representative analysis for Asians and Pacific Islanders on many socioeconomic questions.
- **The Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises.** Provides data on the number of Pan Asian-owned businesses in major metropolitan areas.
- **Survey of Income and Program Participation.** Contains financial and program participation information.

immigration status. While Filipinos settled in Louisiana as early as 1763,¹ Chinese immigration to San Francisco in 1848 marked the formal beginning of immigration from Asia. Due to restrictive immigration and citizenship policies beginning with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act,² the waves of different ethnic groups—Japanese, Filipinos, Koreans, and Asian Indians—that followed the Chinese were small. For almost a century, U.S. policies defined Pan Asian peoples as aliens and ineligible for citizenship regardless of length of residence. Only with the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act and subsequent immigration and refugee policies were quotas for Asian and Pacific peoples abolished.

Although the concepts, Asian American, Pacific/Asian and Pan Asian existed in the 1960s, the populations were numerically invisible. Data were perennially lacking, particularly by subgroups. The first census analysis of Asian Americans appeared in 1974.³ In 1977, Circular A-46, the Office of Management and Budget established five racial/ethnic categories, including Asian/Pacific, to be used in federal statistical and administrative reports. For the 1980 Census, the Census Bureau created an Asian and Pacific American Advisory Committee and carried out the first national count of the U.S. Asian and Pacific Islander population.



Asian families average more wage earners per household.

Size and Dynamism

The Pan Asian population in the United States has traditionally been small—both in terms of absolute numbers and proportion of the total population. Recent growth, however, has been phenomenal: the proportion of the total population increased from less than 1 percent to 2.9 percent between 1970 and 1990. In 1970, Asians and

Pacific Islanders numbered 1.4 million. They more than doubled to 3.5 million by 1980, and doubled again to 7,274,000 million by 1990.⁴

Immigration accounted for three-quarters of the increase in the 1980s (see Figure 2). Immigration peaked at the beginning of the decade; for example, the population grew by 9.6 percent between 1980 and 1981, but

Continued on next page

Research Projects and Data Collection

- **Asian American Studies Center, UCLA.** Public Policies Program, (213) 825-2974. The **Reapportionment Analysis Project** provides data analysis for redistricting activities involving California's Asian Pacific population. The **Census Analysis Project** will analyze census data and provide projections of the Asian Pacific population in Los Angeles, California, and the nation for the years 2000 and 2010. Contact: Paul Ong or Tania Azores. The **Asian Pacific American Voter Registration Project** is undertaking longitudinal analysis of voter registration and political party affiliations of Asian Pacific Americans in California. Also investigating access and representation of Asian Pacific peoples in higher education. Contact: Don Nakanishi.
- **Asian American Health Forum, Data Development Project, San Francisco, Calif.,** (415) 541-0866. Contact: Clarissa Tom or Tessie Guillermo. AAHF, in conjunction with Sonoma State University Foundation and Special Services for Groups, Inc., is establishing an **Asian and Pacific Islander Center for Census Information and Services (ACCIS)**. Will analyze and disseminate data from census, NCHS, and other data sources.
- **The East-West Center, Population Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii,** (808) 944-7416. Contact: Bob Gardner or James Fawcett. Conducting a longitudinal socioeconomic and demographic study of 1986 immigrants from the Philippines and the Republic of Korea.
- **National Research Center on Asian American Mental Health, UCLA,** (213) 825-1775. Contact: David Takeuchi. The center has data sets on Asian American's use of mental health services, mental health, alcohol use, and substance abuse.
- **Asian American Studies, U.C. Berkeley,** (415) 642-2199. Contact: Amado Cabezas. Uses the Public Use Microdata Sample to analyze Asian Pacific American communities in selected states and SMSAs.

- **International Population Center, Sociology Department, San Diego State University,** (619) 594-2874. Contact: Ruben G. Rumbaut or John Weeks. Studies immigrant students in California public schools. Compiles data on Los Angeles and San Diego School districts and on infant mortality and reproductive outcomes among Indochinese refugees in San Diego County.
- **Asian/American Center, Queens College, New York,** (718) 670-4227. Contact: Ms. Hong Wu. Will use the 1990 Census to address Asian-American New Yorkers and redistricting, and analyze Asian communities in the New York metropolitan area.
- **Sociology Department, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Tex.,** (817) 921-7470. Contact: Morrison Wong with Charles Hirschman (Sociology Department, University of Washington, Seattle). Studies educational and socioeconomic attainment using census data.
- **Department of Sociology, California State University, San Marcos.** Contact: William Liu; and **Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego University,** (619) 594-2711. Contact: Elena Yu. Have worked together on Asian and Asian-American research topics, some use of census and NCHS data.
- **Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,** (202) 401-4568. Contact: Linda Gordon. Collects refugee data to facilitate local program delivery. Publishes some results in its *Annual Report to Congress*.
- **Russell Sage Foundation, New York,** will publish the 1980 Census Monograph Series for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 1991 with some 1990 Census data included. Authors are Herbert Barringer (University of Hawaii, Honolulu), Robert Gardner (The East-West Center), and Michael Levin (U.S. Bureau of the Census), (202) 763-5134.

only 5.5 percent between 1987 and 1988.

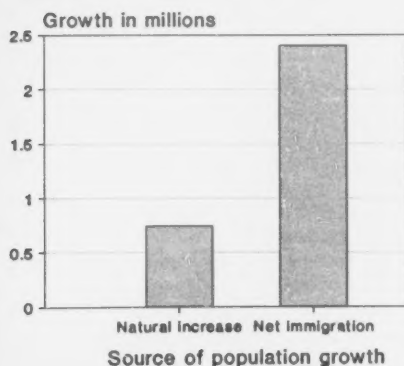
Shifting immigration flows have continually changed the mix of ethnic groups, and intermarriage also adds to the dynamism of this population. A number of even first-generation immigrants intermarry, both within and outside the Pan Asian community. For example, Asian women married American soldiers following World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Second and subsequent generations intermarry more, at a rate of 17 percent (which is about the rate at which Hispanics intermarry).

Data from the March 1990 Current Population Survey provide a mixed picture of achievement. Although the overall educational level of Asian Americans is high, partly reflecting the selective immigration of better-educated Asian adults, statistics also reveal a large number who lack extensive education. In 1990, 20 percent of Asian Americans age 25 and over had less than a high school degree.

The average family income of Asian Americans (\$35,900) is on a par with that of non-Hispanic whites (\$35,000). Asians have achieved this seeming parity, however, by larger households with a greater-than-average number of workers. Furthermore, two disparate streams of Pan Asians exist: afflu-

Continued on next page

Figure 2. Natural Increase and Immigration of Asian Americans: 1980-1987



Source. Immigration and Naturalization Service and National Center for Health Statistics, various years.

SURVEY REPORT

Vietnam

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam conducted its first nationwide survey on fertility and family planning in 1988. The survey, funded by the United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA) and carried out by the National Committee for Population and Family Planning, was based on the 1985 version of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) "Model A" questionnaire, but was adapted and shortened to fit local information needs. In particular, many health questions were dropped. The survey asked 72 questions, rather than the model's full quotient (190 questions).

With more than 4,000 respondents, the survey indicates that a slow fertility decline, which began two decades ago, has continued in recent years. The total fertility rate—4.0 children per woman—is significantly lower than the 6.1 children ever born for currently married women at the end of their reproductive years. The survey also hints that the downward fertility trend is likely to continue: the average desired family size is 2.6 children.

Age at first marriage has also risen over the last two decades. The median age of marriage for 25-29 year olds is 21.3 years and for 45-49 year olds, 19.9 years.

Contraceptive awareness is high in Vietnam. About 94 percent of women could identify methods of family planning—primarily the IUD, the main method currently

available in Vietnam. Contraceptive use is not as high: 63 percent of ever-married women had used contraception at some time, and 53 percent reported current use. The majority of current users (62 percent) use the IUD, followed by the traditional methods of with-

drawal and rhythm (28 percent).

Differences in contraceptive use emerge between urban and rural women, women residing in the north and south, and women of different educational levels. Women in the northern part of the country are more likely

to be practicing family planning (58 percent for the north and 47 percent for the south). Patterns of use are also different: women in the south using a method are more than twice as likely to be using a traditional one. Significant educational differences also appear: only about 29 percent of illiterate women report current use of any method, compared to 55 percent of women with a primary education.

Breastfeeding is very common and lasts on average 14.5 months, with only small differences by residence or socioeconomic level. Infant mortality in the five years before the survey was calculated to be 34 deaths per 1,000 live births, down from 40 per 1,000 during the 10 to 14 years before the survey. These are low estimates compared to other sources and may reflect underreporting.

-N.Y.



Vietnamese women: They now marry later and want fewer children.

U.S. Agency for International Development

Demographer's Page

Continued from previous page

ent and poor. The poverty rate of Asian Americans (around 14 to 17 percent) has increased during the decade and is nearly twice that of non-Hispanic whites (8 percent). The Pan Asian proportion of the poverty population has also grown.

Outlook for the Future

The emerging portrait of U.S. Asian and Pacific Islanders is one of greater diversity and complexity than ever before. Great care must be taken to balance generalizations about the total population with exceptions for individual subgroups.

Intriguing demographic questions for the 1990s include: With continuous immigration, will an Asian-American identity endure? Or rather, with continued interracial unions, will Pan Asians evolve into a new group beyond race and ethnicity? Will Asian Americans maintain geographically based communities or disperse themselves? Will the Asian and Pacific Islander profile remain socioeconomically split?

References

1. Marina Espina, "Filipinos in New Orleans," *Proceedings of the Louisiana Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 37 (December 1975), pp. 117-121.
2. For a history of such policies, see *Recent Activities against Citizens and Residents of Asian Descent*, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Clearinghouse Publication no. 88; and Jeff H. Lesser, "Always Outsiders: Asians, Naturalization and the Supreme Court," *Amerasia Journal*, Vol. 12, No. 1 (1985-1986).
3. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, *A Study of Selected Socio-Economic Characteristics of Ethnic Minorities Based on the 1970 Census, Volume II: Asian Americans*, HEW publication no. (OS) 75-121, 1974.
4. Unadjusted total from 1990 Census.

Tamayo Lott Associates is located at 717 Springloch Road, Silver Spring, Md. 20904, (301) 680-9231.

PRB's new study, "Asian Americans: America's Fastest Growing Minority Group," by William P. O'Hare and Judy C. Felt, is now available as number 19 in the *Population Trends and Public Policy* series from the Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20009-5728, 1-800-817-9881. Price: \$5 per single copy, discounts for multiple orders.

SOFTWARE

The Spanish Surname Lookup Utility (SSLU) allows researchers, marketers, litigants, advocates, and others to use the list of some 12,000 Spanish surnames compiled by the Census Bureau to identify persons of probable Hispanic origin. Allan F. Abrahamse and Peter A. Morrison of the RAND corporation developed the utility. SSLU runs on any IBM-compatible PC.

Not all Spanish-surnamed persons are of Spanish origin. But the Bureau's list provides a consistent definition and a means of estimating the Hispanic segment of the population whose names are recorded. For example, it can provide a check on the number of Hispanics within a voting district, a specific criminal justice system, or a given market area.

The user tests each name by typing in each letter of the name. The program matches possible Hispanic surnames for that combination. For example, no Spanish name starts with "MC," so after typing the second letter of "MCLANAHAN," the list of possible matches empties.

SSLU neither reads nor writes machine-readable files. For users with large machine-readable lists, Abrahamse and Morrison have developed a substantially extended version that is available for a licensing fee. SSLU is free for the asking: send in a self-addressed diskette mailer. Contact Peter A. Morrison, Population Research Center, RAND, 1700 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

—S.K.

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of November 1, 1990	250,969,000
As of November 1, 1989	248,290,000

The above estimates, the first based on the 1990 Census, include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1068.

Estimated World Population:

As of April 1991	5,391,000,000
Annual growth	93,000,000

Extrapolation from the mid-1990 population on PRB's 1990 *World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: October 1990

Item	12 months ending with October					
	Number		Rate			
	1990	1989	1990	1989	1988	1987
Live births	4,157,000	3,992,000	16.6	16.1	15.9	15.7
Deaths	2,141,000	2,174,000	8.7	8.6	8.9	8.7
Natural increase	1,983,000	1,851,000	7.9	7.5	7.0	7.0
Marriages	2,451,000	2,384,000	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.0
Divorces	1,185,000	1,158,000	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8
Infant deaths	38,400	38,800	9.2	9.8	10.0	9.9
Population base (in millions)	...	...	250.4	247.8	245.2	242.9

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.

Source. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report* (Vol. 39, No. 10) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Minorities and Redistricting

On January 18, PRB held a day-long technical redistricting workshop to discuss the progress of minority, civil rights, and voting rights groups around the country preparing to use census data for redistricting. A similar workshop was held last October.

Census data is used to redraw boundaries for all election districts in the country—from the U.S. Congress to local school boards—in order to comply with the one person-one vote requirement mandated by the courts. Redistricting, which occurs after every census, is of special concern to minority groups who want to guard against the possibility of minority vote dilution (or racial gerrymandering) when the new voting districts are drawn up. In accordance with Public Law 94-171, the Census Bureau makes available redistricting data, giving population by age and race for all census geographic units down to the block level.

This year, the redistricting process will rely enormously on computers and new technology. Using the Census Bureau's TIGER files, the PL 94-171 data, and Geographic Information Systems software, boundaries of new election districts can be generated and changed by computers. Access to this new technology, a knowledge of the census data, and an understanding of the legal principles of redistricting will enable minority groups to participate more effectively in redistricting.

During the January workshop, representatives of various organizations compared notes on their progress in developing these technical capacities. Gerald Hebert, chief of the Voting Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department discussed the department's role in evaluating redistricting plans for compliance with the Voting Rights Act and its amendments.

As a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, PRB makes its technical expertise available, and facilitates communications exchange and information dissemination among many different minority groups and all political parties.

—T.M. and S.K.

TAKE A NUMBER

1990 Census: State Populations by Race and Hispanic Origin
(in thousands)

	Resident population	White	Black	American Indian/ Eskimo/ Aleut	Asian American/ Pacific Islander	Other	Hispanic origin
UNITED STATES	248,710	199,686	29,986	1,959	7,274	9,805	22,354
Alabama	4,041	2,976	1,021	17	22	6	25
Alaska	550	415	22	86	20	7	18
Arizona	3,665	2,963	111	204	55	339	588
Arkansas	2,351	1,945	374	13	13	7	20
California	29,760	20,524	2,209	242	2,846	3,939	7,688
Colorado	3,294	2,905	133	28	60	168	424
Connecticut	3,287	2,859	274	7	51	96	213
Delaware	666	535	112	2	9	8	16
Dist. of Columbia	607	180	400	1	11	15	33
Florida	12,938	10,749	1,760	36	154	238	1,574
Georgia	6,478	4,600	1,747	13	76	42	109
Hawaii	1,108	370	27	5	685	21	81
Idaho	1,007	950	3	14	9	30	53
Illinois	11,431	8,953	1,694	22	285	476	904
Indiana	5,544	5,021	432	13	38	41	99
Iowa	2,777	2,683	48	7	25	13	33
Kansas	2,478	2,232	143	22	32	49	94
Kentucky	3,685	3,392	263	6	18	7	22
Louisiana	4,220	2,839	1,299	19	41	22	93
Maine	1,228	1,208	5	6	7	2	7
Maryland	4,781	3,394	1,190	13	140	45	125
Massachusetts	6,016	5,405	300	12	143	155	288
Michigan	9,295	7,756	1,292	56	105	87	202
Minnesota	4,375	4,130	95	50	78	22	54
Mississippi	2,573	1,633	915	9	13	3	16
Missouri	5,117	4,486	548	20	41	22	62
Montana	799	741	2	48	4	4	12
Nebraska	1,578	1,481	57	12	12	16	37
Nevada	1,202	1,013	79	20	38	53	124
New Hampshire	1,109	1,087	7	2	9	3	11
New Jersey	7,730	6,130	1,037	15	273	275	740
New Mexico	1,515	1,146	30	134	14	190	579
New York	17,990	13,385	2,859	63	694	990	2,214
North Carolina	6,629	5,008	1,456	80	52	32	77
North Dakota	639	604	4	26	3	2	5
Ohio	10,847	9,522	1,155	20	91	59	140
Oklahoma	3,146	2,584	234	252	34	42	86
Oregon	2,842	2,637	46	38	69	52	113
Pennsylvania	11,882	10,520	1,090	15	137	119	232
Rhode Island	1,003	917	39	4	18	25	46
South Carolina	3,487	2,407	1,040	8	22	9	30
South Dakota	696	638	3	51	3	2	5
Tennessee	4,877	4,048	778	10	32	9	33
Texas	16,987	12,775	2,022	66	319	1,805	4,340
Utah	1,723	1,616	12	24	33	38	85
Vermont	563	555	2	2	3	1	4
Virginia	6,187	4,792	1,163	15	159	58	160
Washington	4,867	4,309	150	81	211	116	215
West Virginia	1,793	1,726	56	2	7	2	8
Wisconsin	4,892	4,513	245	39	54	42	93
Wyoming	454	427	4	9	3	11	26

Note. Individuals of Hispanic origin can be of any race.
Source. Department of Commerce press release CB91-100.

CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in *Current Readings*. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 1875 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20009-5728.

WOMEN, POVERTY, AND RESOURCES, by Poona Wignaraja. Sage Publications, India: New Delhi, 1990 (published for UNICEF). 241 pages. \$26.00. ISBN 0-8039-9624-1.

Many Third World women suffer from the closely linked, double burdens of poverty and sex discrimination. Starting from this perspective, the author of this thought-provoking book offers readers a concrete approach to alleviating both burdens.

The key to success, according to the author, is to mobilize poor women around issues of common concern, primarily using local resources and knowledge. Many well-meaning projects, for instance small-loans programs, have continued to treat women as "objects" rather than "subjects" of development. They have therefore been doomed to failure.

On the other hand, projects that have raised the awareness of poor women to their own needs, rights, talents, and resources have succeeded, if only on a small scale. The author reviews, in detail, seven such projects in South Asia.

They range from the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh (now a public sector organization that began as village credit society after the 1971 war of independence) to the Production Credit for Rural Women in Nepal (a branch of the Ministry of Panchayat and Local Development), to Baldia Home Schools (an experimental project set up by the School of Social Welfare in Karachi).

The author identifies common threads that make these projects successful and ties them together into a new theoretical approach and methodology for participatory action research.

The volume also reviews, in less detail, projects in Africa and Latin America and offers advice for donors and international organizations on how to improve their input into efforts to help poor women. This book is a "must" for anyone interested in women status in the Third World.

—Nancy Yinger

HEALTH CARE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, by Helen M. Wallace and Kanti Giri. Oakland: Third Party Publishing Company, 1990. 587 pages. \$20.00. ISBN 0-89914-031-9.

This collection of essays investigates the various social, economic, and biological factors that determine the standards of maternal and child health in developing countries.

The book covers every stage of the cycle: maternal health, infant and child health, adolescent health, and delivery of care to women and children. Together, the essays probe into the various causes of persistent poor maternal and child health in developing countries: lack of primary health care, poor nutrition, generally poor economic conditions, and lack of access to family planning.

These essays provide a wealth of data on fertility, infant, child and maternal mortality, and related topics. The book also describes maternal/child health projects being carried out by UNFPA, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

Since the papers explore all aspects of public health—from AIDS, to immunization, to the availability of trained birth attendants—the text is appropriate for students of public health and international development who will benefit from a multi-disciplinary approach.

—Minki Chatterji

DISABILITY STATISTICS COMPENDIUM, by the UN Department of International Economic and Social Affairs Statistical Office. New York: United Nations, 1990. 349 pages. \$49.00.

The UN has just released the first international compendium of disability statistics. This reference work presents national statistics on disability from 55 countries. The information comes from the 1988 United Nations Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT, Version 1). DISTAT contains disability statistics from national household surveys, population censuses, and population or civil registration systems.

The DISTAT data base grew out of the 1982 World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons. As part of that program, the UN worked with developing countries to gather data through population and housing censuses, sample surveys, and administrative reporting systems.

The volume explains issues in the international data collection effort, including the difficulty of making international comparisons of disability rates, given differences in methods for calculating incidence of disability. Tables provide data by country for such characteristics as age of disabled persons, sex, residence, educational attainment, economic activity, marital status, household characteristics, causes of impairment, and special aids used.

—Susan Kalish

Clarification:

In editing the review of Peter J. Donaldson's book, *Nature Against Us* (March 1991 PT), the word "critical" was added in the sense of "exercising or involving careful judgement or judicious evaluation," not in its more common meaning of "inclined to criticize severely and unfavorably" (*Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*). We apologize for any confusion this ambiguity may have caused.

—S.K.

SPOTLIGHT

ISRAEL

Population (mid-1990 est.): 4.6 million
Land area: 8,020 sq. miles
Population density: 572 per sq. mile
Births per 1,000 pop.: 23
Deaths per 1,000 pop.: 7
Rate of natural increase: 1.6 percent
Total fertility rate: 3.1 children per woman
Infant mortality rate: 10 infant deaths per 1,000 live births
Life expectancy at birth: 75 years
Capital: Jerusalem

by Alex de Sherbinin

There are few countries in the world where demographics mean as much to a state's existence as in Israel. Ever since its creation in 1948, the tiny Jewish state has sought to preserve its place and expand its numbers to counter the threat, real and perceived, of its Arab neighbors—Egypt to the south, Jordan and Syria to the east, and Lebanon to the north.

Israel's physical geography can be divided into four distinct regions. In the north are the hills of Galilee, which extend down from Lebanon. Just south is the country's breadbasket, the vale of Esdraelon—an area of lowland plains with relatively high rainfall. In the middle is an upland plateau, marked by a more desolate landscape and lower levels of precipitation. In the south, the mountains drop off into the largely uninhabited Negev desert, which comprises roughly half of the country's territory.

The population of Israel is concentrated along the Mediterranean, where roughly three-quarters of the population resides. The vast majority (90 percent) of the population lives in urban areas: 23 percent of the total population in the Tel Aviv area, 12 percent in the Haifa area, and 12 percent in the



Jerusalem area.

Israel's population policy expressly encouraged both higher fertility and immigration. Incentives to increase fertility include free medical services for pregnant women, one-time birth grants, child allowances, special allowances for third and higher parity children, and tax exemptions for working mothers. In addition, immigration laws guarantee the rights of any Jew to immigrate to Israel and to receive government assistance for settlement.

The recent wave of Soviet Jewish migration has in fact overwhelmed the country's ability to cope. Approximately 150,000 Soviet Jews migrated to Israel in 1990, and an estimated 400,000 were expected in 1991 prior to the onset of the war in the Persian Gulf. The influx has stirred the resentment of some long-term residents. There is already an acute shortage of housing and a scarcity of employment opportunities for professionals.

The unemployment rate rose from 6.2 in 1988 to 9 percent in 1989. The well-educated, largely professional Soviet Jews face the prospect of se-

vere unemployment and underemployment. Already 27 percent of the Israeli labor force is in public service occupations, whereas 20 percent is in manufacturing and 13 percent work in the hard-hit hotel and restaurant business.

Paradoxically, as Israel attracts immigrants from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, it is losing many of its citizens to emigration due to fears about security and prospects for greater economic advancement in the West. Return migration to countries of origin apparently accounts for a large percentage of emigration.

Since 1967 Israel has controlled the West Bank and Gaza Strip, now known as the occupied territories. A concern of the Israeli government, as reflected in its pro-growth policies, has been the ethnic composition of Israel and the occupied territories. Currently Jews make up approximately 82 percent of the population of Israel proper, and 62 percent of the combined area of Israel plus the occupied territories. Arab birth rates are 1.75 times higher than birth rates among Jews. Even taking into account higher Arab infant mortality rates, the natural increase of the Arab population is still significantly higher.

Despite the emphasis on settling Jews in the occupied territories (including controversial efforts to place recently arrived Soviet Jews in the West Bank) the fact remains that about the same number of Palestinian Arabs live within Israel—primarily in Western Galilee—as reside in all of the West Bank. Arnon Soffer, a Haifa University geographer, has suggested that if attention is not paid to Israel's own Arab population, including granting of full civil rights, their growing numbers and continued disenfranchisement could lead to the growth of separatist tendencies within Israel.